

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising an adapter, said adapter comprising:  
2 a slot that receives a smart card;  
3 a connector; and  
4 a passive router that routes signals from the smart card to the connector.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a host conditional access  
2 module coupled to the adapter through the connector.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the host conditional access module  
2 further comprises an outgoing converter to convert an outgoing signal from a  
3 first format to a second format.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first format of the signal is  
2 parallel, and the second format of the signal is serial.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the host conditional access module  
2 further comprises an incoming converter to convert an incoming signal from a  
3 second format to a first format.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the second format is serial and the first  
2 format is parallel.

1 7. An adapter comprising:  
2 a slot to receive a smart card;  
3 a first converter to convert a serial signal from the smart card to a  
4 parallel signal; and  
5 a connector to connect to a conditional access module.

1 8. The adapter of claim 7 further comprising a second converter to convert  
2 a parallel signal from the conditional access module to a serial signal.

1 9. The adapter of claim 8, wherein the converted serial signal is sent to the  
2 smart card.

1 10. The adapter of claim 7, wherein the converted parallel signal is sent to  
2 the conditional access module.

1 11. A connector comprising:

2 a PCMCIA connector to form a connection between a PCMCIA card and  
3 a conditional access module; and  
4 a smart card reader to form a connection between a smart card and the  
5 conditional access module.

1 12. The converter of claim 11 further comprising a smart card slot to hold  
2 the smart card.

1 13. The converter of claim 12, further comprising a plastic insert that can be  
2 inserted into the smart card slot so that the connection between the smart card  
3 and the smart card reader is maintained.